

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY
(for several applications filed in the USPTO)

As a representative of the Assignee, Medtronic, Inc.(d/b/a Medtronic Midas Rex), a corporation, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents:

LOWES, J. Andrew, Reg. No. 40,706; Becker, Jeffrey M., Reg. No. 35,442; Bell, James R., Reg. No. 26,528; Bliss, Timothy, Reg. No. 50,925; Brown, Randall C., Reg. No. 31,213; L. Howard Chen, Reg. No. 46,615; Colson, Randall E., Reg. No. 40,556; Davis, Michael A., Reg. No. 35,488; DeLeon, Ruben C., Reg. No. 37,812; Ehmke, Andrew S., Reg. No. 50,271; Hubbard, Brian, Reg. No. 45,873; Irani, Rita M., Reg. No. 31,028; Kahler, Mark P., Reg. No. 22,732; Kice, Warren B., Reg. No. 22,732; Kosh, Christopher, Reg. No. 42,760; Balconi-Lamica, Michael, Reg. No. 34,291; Mattingly, Todd, Reg. No. 40,298; McCombs, David M., Reg. No. 32,271; Montgomery, John, Reg. No. 31,124; Naifeh, Bill, Reg. No. 44,962; O'Dell, David M., Reg. No. 42,044 of Haynes & Boone, L.L.P., 901 Main Street, Suite 3100, Dallas, Texas 75202-3789, United States of America; AND; Patton, Harold R., Reg. No. 22,157; Albrecht, John W., Reg. No. 40,481; Collier, Kenneth J., Reg. No. 34,982; Jaro, Michael J., Reg. No. 34,472; Latham, Daniel W., Reg. No. 30,401; Berry, Thomas G., Reg. No. 31,36; Wolde-Michael, Girma, Reg. No. 36,724; Kinghorn, Curtis D., Reg. No. 33,926; Bauer, Stephen Walter, Reg. No. 32,192; Woods, Thomas F., Reg. No. 36,726; Waldkoetter, Eric R., Reg. No. 36,713; Soldner, Michael C., Reg. No. 41,455; Belden, E. Lacy, Reg. No. 50,751; McDowall, Paul H., Reg. No. 34,873 of Medtronic Midas Rex, LC 340, 710 Medtronic Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55432, United States of America;

to represent the undersigned before the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with any and all domestic applications filed with the USPTO as receiving Office and to make or receive payments on behalf of the undersigned.

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the Assignee.

Medtronic, Inc.

Thomas G. Berry

Type Name

Date

5/28/02

Thomas G. Berry
Signature

Vice President and Senior Counsel for IP Law

Title

D-1006273.1

**INVENTOR'S DECLARATION FOR
PATENT APPLICATION**

As below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our names;

We believe we are the original, first and sole joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

COUPLING SYSTEM FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

the specification of which: (check one)

 X is attached hereto.

_____ was filed on _____
under Attorney's Docket Number _____
as Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

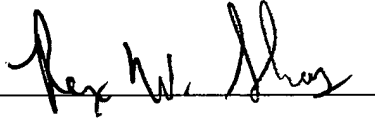
We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign applications for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international

application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Claimed

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: Rex Wesley Shores

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE:



DATED:

10/30/03

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FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: Paul A. Cihak

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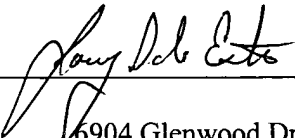
PATENT / DOCKET NO.: P11712.00/31849.35
CUSTOMER NO. 27683

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: Larry D. Estes

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